



SOUTH AMERICA

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education

- South America is a continent located in the western hemisphere.
- It is the fourth largest continent.
- About 2/3 part of this continent lies in the tropical region, south of the equator.
- South America is a long triangular shaped continent.
- It is bounded by the Caribbean Sea to the northwest and north, the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast, east, and southeast, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.



- It is two-third the size of Africa and six times the size of India. The coastline of South America is smooth with very few inlets except in the extreme south-west where there are fiords and many small islands.
- Fiords are deep inlets of the sea into mountains land.
- The island of Tierra del Fuego lies in the extreme south of this continent and the southernmost tip of this island is called the 'Cape Horn'.



- South America includes 14 countries:
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Falkland Islands (United Kingdom) i.e. (British Overseas Territories)
- French Guiana (France)
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Suriname
- Uruguay
- Venezuela.



- Landlocked Countries – Paraguay and Bolivia
- The 'Galapagos' island of Ecuador is the natural fertility centre of Olive Ridley Turtle.
- Easter Island of this continent is an isolated Polynesian island famous for its mysterious history and giant stone statues.
- South America, Central America, Mexico and West Indies are together called the 'Latin America'. Latin is considered the mother language which gave birth to such European languages as Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian.

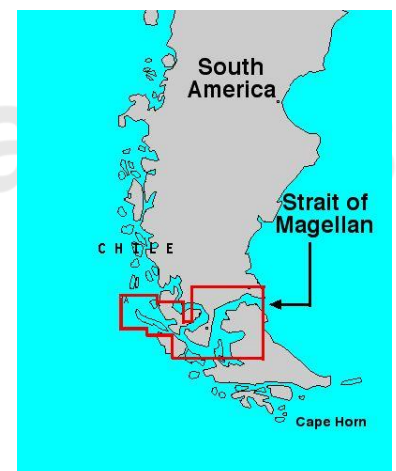


- La Paz, Bolivia is the highest capital city in the world.
- Brazil is the largest country in South America.
- Sao Paulo, Brazil is largest city.
- Brazil, Columbia and Ecuador are one of the largest producers of coffee in the world.
- The smallest country in South America is called Suriname. It is about 50 times smaller than Brazil.

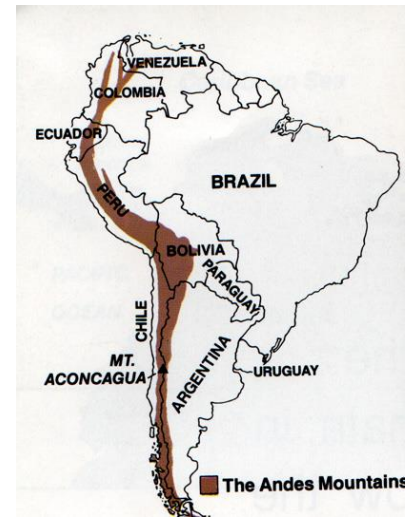


Mountain Ranges

- **Andes Mountains:**
 - Andes Mountains – A part of seven countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina.
 - The Andes stretches through the entire continent, running in the north-south direction from Isthmus of Panama to Strait of Magellan.
 - They are the continuous range of folded mountain systems
 - The Andes is the longest mountain range in the world. **The highest mountain of this mountain range is Aconcagua, which stands at 6,962 meters**



- Forms the second-highest mountain systems in the world and is next to the Himalayas
- Being part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, there are many volcanoes and frequent earthquakes in this region.
- Mount Cotopaxi and Mount Chimborazo are active volcanic peak, Mt. Cotopaxi lies in this continent which is the highest active volcano of the world.
- Mount Aconcagua is the extinct volcano lies in Argentina.
- Mount Ojas del Salado is the highest active volcano in the world of Argentina
- Mt. Aconcagua is the highest peak of this continent.



- **Guiana Highlands:** an abundance of rain, tropical rainforest, gold, diamond, and iron ore reserve. World's highest fall – Angel's fall on the Caroni River.
- Venezuela has the largest known oil and gas reserves. It has about 300 billion barrels of oil and 21,000 quadrillion cubic feet of gas reserves. It also has one of the most heavily subsidized petroleum products markets on the planet.



Grassland

- The northern part is a plain covered with savanna grass called the Llanos.
- The equatorial jungle of the Amazon Basin is called the selvas, a typical tropical rain forest.
- The rich temperate grasslands around the mouth of the Parana-Paraguay is the pampas.
- At the source of these rivers is a region scrub forest called the Gran Chaco.

- The savanna grasslands of Brazilian Highlands are the Campos.
- In the Pampas region of South America, highly nutritious alfalfa grass is grown.
- Major Food Crops: Maize and Wheat
- Major Cash Crops: Coffee



Deserts

- Patagonian Desert – the largest desert by area located in Argentina
- Atacama – a desert in Chile, the driest place on Earth.
- Sechura Desert – a desert located along a portion of the northwestern coast of South America
- Monte Desert – in Argentina, a smaller desert above the Patagonian desert.



- Chuquicamata plateau of Chile is famous for the production of copper. It is known as the 'Copper Capital of the world'.
- Chile is the largest producer of Nitrate in the world.



Major Lakes

NAME	LOCATION
Lake Maracaibo (12,950 sq. km)	North of Venezuela, is one of the major oil producing region.Largest lake of South America.
Lake Titicaca (12,500 feet above sea level)	Situated between Bolivia and Peru.Highest navigable lake in the world.
Lake Popo	Lies in the Altiplano (high Plateau between the Andes mountain chain) in Bolivia.



Drainage System of South America

- The Amazon Basin
- The Rio de Plata Basin
- The Orinoco Basin
- The Sao Francisco Basin

The Amazon Basin

- Its length is second to that of the Nile river of Africa.
- It has the largest flow of water in the world.
- It originates in the Andes and after passing through Brazil, drain into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Anaconda, a variety of python found in the Amazon basin, is 10-12m long.
- The river drains nearly 40 per cent of the area of South America.
- The major tributaries of the Amazon river are the Caqueta, the Jurua, the Madeira, the Negro, etc.

- Equatorial rainforest
- Petroleum at mouth
- Natural Rubber
- Amazon rainforest – deforestation due to cattle ranching and soya beans field.



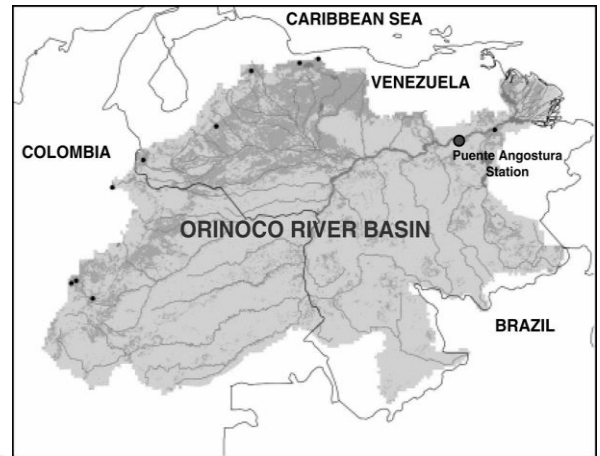
The Rio de Plata basin

- This basin is second in size to that of the Amazon.
- The main rivers which form the Basin of Rio de Plata are the river Paraguay, the Parana, and the river Uruguay.



The Orinoco basin

- This is considered to be the third-largest drainage system of South America.
- In the North, the Orinoco river passes through a zone called 'Region of Rapids' where there are enormous granite boulders.
- The world's highest waterfall Angel (979 m) is situated on river Churun which is a tributary of river Caroni which is further a tributary of river Orinoco.
- The Orinoco flows through the llanos (savanna grasslands) of Venezuela into the (North Atlantic Ocean).



Unique Animals:

- Candor (largest bird of prey)
- Rhea (Flightless bird that can run very fast)
- Anaconda (group of large snakes of the genus Eunectes)
- Armadillo; Ant-eater; Puma (Ferocious animal of lion family)
- Llama (animal from camel family).



Pantanal Wetlands

- It is the world's largest tropical wetlands.
- The Pantanal derives its name from the Portuguese word for 'swamp'.
- It has the largest concentration of crocodiles in the world.



- Jaguars, the largest feline in the Americas, hunt caiman in the Pantanal, which has one of the highest density of jaguars anywhere in the world.
- The Pantanal is also home to the biggest parrot on the planet, the hyacinth macaw.
- The areas that are protected include parts that fall under an agreement called Ramsar that requires national governments to conserve and wisely use wetlands and some that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.
- Around 95% of the Pantanal is under private ownership, the majority of which is used for cattle grazing.



Lithium Triangle

- Lithium Triangle is an intersection of Chile, Bolivia and Argentina, known for high quality salt flats.
- Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia, Salar de Atacama in Chile, and Salar de Arizaro in Argentina contains over 45% of known global lithium reserves.
- Lithium dissolved in underground saline aquifers called “brine”, pumped to the surface by wells and then allowed to evaporate in vast knee-deep ponds.
- Demand for electric vehicles and smart devices powered by lithium-ion batteries gives an opportunity for development.



Ethnic Groups

- Natives are called ‘Red Indians’. Several mixed races are also found here like, Mestizo (Indian +European), Mulatto (Black +European), Zambo (Black + Indian), and Cholo (Mestizo + Indians).
- Time Zone: There are four different time zones:

Questions:

The world's highest waterfall Angel (979 m) drains its water from which river?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Orinoco
- (c) Parana
- (d) Sao Francisco

Which of the following islands of Ecuador is the natural fertility centre of Olive Ridley Turtle, species recently seen in news?

- (a) Robinson Crusoe Island of Ecuador
- (b) Galapagos Island of Ecuador
- (c) San Andres Island of Ecuador
- (d) Isabela Island of Ecuador

Match the following grasslands with their countries:

Grasslands	Country
(A) Llanos	(I) Pampas
(B) Argentina	(II) Bolivia
(C) Gran Chaco	(III) Venezuela

- (a) A-III, B-I, C-II
- (b) A-I, B-II, C-III
- (c) A-III, B-II, C-I
- (d) A-I, B-III, C-II

"Lithium Triangle" often seen in the news, is used for which three countries?

- (a) Chile, Bolivia and Argentina
- (b) Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay
- (c) Chile, Peru, Ecuador
- (d) Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil

Atacama desert, the driest place on Earth is located at:

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Uruguay
- (c) Peru
- (d) Chile

Question	Answer
1	b
2	b
3	a
4	a
5	d



Parcham Classes